

Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Programmatic Endangered Species Act Consultation Will Reduce Permit Processing Time

In an effort to expedite the processing of permit applications for minor projects which require Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation, Portland District, Corps of Engineers, is engaged in a programmatic consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This consultation addresses the effects on endangered species of 15 categories of activities, including:

- erosion control activities
- water control activities
- utility lines
- road construction, repairs and improvements
- site preparation for construction of buildings and related features
- stream and wetland restoration and enhancement
- boat ramps
- other minor discharges and excavation
- installation of small temporary floats
- maintenance of existing structures and marinas
- installation of small temporary floats
- structures in fleeting and anchorage areas
- maintenance dredging
- return water from upland contained disposal areas
- fish and wildlife harvest, attraction devices and activities

The objective of this consultation is to identify measures for these categories of activities which will protect threatened and endangered species and their habitat. Once this programmatic consultation is completed, applications for permits for these activities, which include the appropriate measures to protect listed species, would not require further ESA consultation. This would substantially reduce the time required for processing permit actions while ensuring protection for listed species in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. We expect that the programmatic consultation will be completed by the end of 2000.